

# WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!



OCT. 6, 2011

Vol. 53, No. 39

50¢

# TROY DAVIS: 'Dismantle this unjust system'

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

Sept. 26 — The outrage over the state of Georgia's execution of Troy Davis at 11:08 p.m. on Sept. 21 has not abated. Rather, his name has become a code word for resistance and struggle.

Youth chanted, "We are Troy Davis!" when attacked and arrested by New York City police on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24 during marches that took to the streets, denouncing his execution and rebelling against the rule of profit over people.

In Atlanta and elsewhere, people are meeting to strategize on how to carry the fight against the death penalty and the prison-industrial complex to higher levels, challenging a class structure that is imbued with racism and only serves profit.

The Davis family will hold a public funeral for Troy on Oct. 1 in Savannah, Ga., and encourages all of his supporters to visibly show that they are heeding his call to build a movement for justice for all. For more information, go to [www.aiusa.org](http://www.aiusa.org).

In the days leading up to Troy's execution and since, a common question asked by the corporate media is why

this case caused more than 1 million people to sign on-line petitions demanding clemency; brought out people in more than 300 cities on Sept. 16 for an International Day of Solidarity with Troy Davis; and compelled thousands to continue to fight for his life, right up to the moment that the lethal injection procedure began, after the Supreme Court refused to stay the execution.

Youth, not even born or only very young children when Troy went on trial, make up a large percentage of those incensed by a judicial system that favors technicalities and deadlines over innocence and fairness. People of all ages are now withstanding the failures of this capitalist system to provide jobs, education, health care, housing, a clean environment, peace and equality. So many millions — not just in the U.S., but worldwide — have seen firsthand that the laws are written to benefit the rich and those in power, not to provide justice and fairness. That is why they recognized the truth of Troy Davis's situation and responded in such huge numbers.

The facts of Troy's case, told on the Internet, blogged and tweeted and covered on corporate TV, radio and in newspapers, became well known to millions who could recount the injustices and failings of the original trial

*Continued on page 8*

## SPECIAL TROY DAVIS COVERAGE

6-8



## 'OCCUPY WALL STREET' Police riot evokes outrage

5

## JOIN US OCT 8-9

Workers World Party Conference 2-3

### NEW YORK



WW PHOTO GREG BUTTERFIELD

Yusef Salaam speaks out for Troy Davis. Salaam was one of five Black youths framed up in the so-called "Central Park Jogger Case." He was imprisoned for five and a half years before being exonerated.

### PHILADELPHIA



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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**AFRICOM** in Libya 11

**GREECE** Workers fight budget cuts 10



OCT. 8-9

# Join us at the Workers World Party National Conference

By Kathy Durkin

Do you want to discuss the global economic crisis? Strategize on how to fight for jobs, health care, housing and education? Help to organize a struggle against this racist, anti-worker system? Fight for a socialist future?

If you answer “yes” to these questions, then the Workers World Party national conference in New York City is the place for you to be on the weekend of Oct. 8 and 9.

This will be a time to analyze the global capitalist crisis — using the tools of Marxism — and its worsening impact on working and poor people. It will be a time for reflection, discussion and the exchange of ideas and tactics. It will be a working conference — aimed at building the resistance movement and organizing a national, coordinated fightback.

WWP invites left, progressive and working-class forces to attend and to join in the spirit of unity to build the class struggle here and to help strengthen the worldwide anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and pro-socialist movements.

At a time of staggering unemployment and soaring poverty — when the government at all levels is cutting jobs and safety net programs — anger is growing daily. Yet there are no real jobs programs, no increases in social programs or other assistance. The crisis has hit tens of millions of people here and untold numbers abroad, with no end in sight.

Larry Holmes, a WWP leader, explains its impact: “The debt crisis and bank solvency crisis in Europe has now become the focus of the world capitalist crisis. It is a big deal that affects the entire world. What have globalization and technology done? What has the worldwide socialization of labor resulted in? They have made the crisis in any region of the world immediate, with a greater and quicker impact on the economic crisis and on the class struggle here.”

Holmes underscored at a recent WWP meeting: “We must go over this at the Party conference. We must bring as many of our longtime friends, newly met people from the Bronx and around the country, and allies from the progressive movement and the international struggle. The conference needs to be strong because it comes at a very crucial time.

“Everyone should distribute the attractive broadsheet, which lists our fightback program,” Holmes suggested. “In light of all the important issues, such as launching the Food is a Right campaign and the jobs struggle,” he

stressed, “if the Party is to be helpful in shedding light on these serious global developments and explaining our programmatic response, then we must light a fire under people to come to the conference.

“This is a serious event. We are preparing for it in a serious way. It could be decisive now and in 2012, with the election morass. This crisis is facing us and the working class here and in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Latin America — everywhere. Our Party will do our best to explain the crisis and put forward a line of march.”

The racist execution of Troy Davis brings the issue of state repression against oppressed, poor and working people even more to the forefront of the progressive and working-class struggle — and to the WWP conference. In light of this atrocity and recent police attacks and arrests, including at the “Occupy Wall Street” protests, the role of the capitalist state will be addressed, too.

Conference panels and discussion groups on Saturday, Oct. 8, will take up the deepening world economic crisis. Activists from across the country will raise concrete strategies and tactics to help push the class struggle forward. Ideas and suggestions are welcome

That evening there will be a workshop on “What is Workers World Party?” How to join, as well as our political program, perspective and pro-struggle orientation will be taken up.

Young activists are organizing a panel entitled, “Rebel against Capitalism,” which will reflect the courageous and militant role of youth in struggle worldwide and in the U.S.

The WWP conference will be held at the Paul Robeson complex in the Bronx, N.Y. See [www.workersworld.net](http://www.workersworld.net) for the location and schedule, to register and to contribute to the event’s expenses. Posted there is literature related to the conference’s themes, including the above-mentioned broadsheet, “Why Are We Fighting for Jobs for All!”

A must-read is the brand-new document by Fred Goldstein, a leading member of WWP, titled, “Capitalism is at a Dead End: Job Destruction, Overproduction and Crisis in the High Tech Era — a Marxist View.”

Also, an appeal for socialist unity sets forth basic tenets: solidarity with the multinational working class and oppressed peoples here and worldwide, support for self-determination, and opposition to imperialist wars, racism, sexism and gender oppression.

If you want to join the anti-capitalist fightback, you know where to be on the second weekend in October. □

WORKERS WORLD  
this week...

★ In the U.S.

Troy Davis: ‘Dismantle this unjust system’ .....	1
Workers World Party National Conference .....	2
Undocumented youth block intersection .....	4
New Yorkers wish Chávez speedy recovery .....	4
Indian communist leader speaks to U.S. activists .....	4
Protesters expose role of the state .....	5
Farmworkers demand living wage .....	5
On the picket line .....	5
Letter from Troy Davis .....	6
The class forces that killed Troy Davis .....	6
Troy Davis execution raises old questions, new challenges ..	7
People protest the murder of Troy Davis .....	8

★ Around the world

President’s return sharpens the struggle in Yemen .....	9
Abu Ghraib defense attorney faces murder charge .....	9
Greece: Struggle over possible default .....	10
NATO’s Libya war opens door to AFRICOM .....	11

★ Editorials

Two executions, one weapon .....	10
----------------------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

¡Troy Davis presente! .....	12
-----------------------------	----

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Fred Goldstein

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A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

In 1986 Sam Marcy wrote that the scientific-technological revolution is accelerating a shift to lower-paying jobs and to more women, Black and Latino/a workers. Using Marxism as a living tool, he analyzes the trends and offers strategies for labor including the occupation of plants.

A new introduction by Fred Goldstein explains the need for a working-class resurgence.

[www.workers.org/marcy/hightech](http://www.workers.org/marcy/hightech)

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Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed & students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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# WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA NACIONAL DEL PARTIDO MUNDO OBRERO

## THE GLOBAL CAPITALIST ECONOMIC CRISIS — LA CRISIS ECONÓMICA CAPITALISTA GLOBAL —

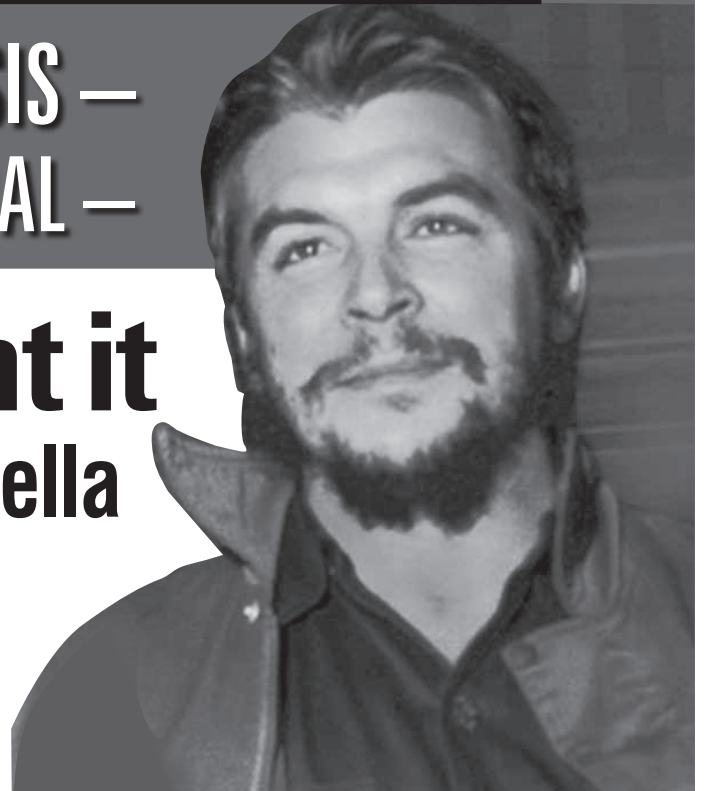
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- ▶ Opposing imperialist wars, occupations; supporting self-determination
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- ▶ The growing, militant fightback by the workers and oppressed
- ▶ La creciente lucha militante de los/as trabajadores/as y oprimidos/as
- ▶ Why the solution is to abolish capitalism and build SOCIALISM and more ...
- ▶ Por qué abolir el capitalismo; SOCIALISMO es la solución y muchos otros temas más

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La conferencia está dedicada al espíritu revolucionario del héroe internacional

**CHE GUEVARA**, asesinado el 8 de octubre de 1967.

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- ▶ Discussion groups
- ▶ Special afternoon plenary session:  
**Global youth rebellion against capitalism**  
followed by open mike (after lunch)
- ▶ Special dinner meeting on:  
**Workers World Party: Why and how to join?**

**SUNDAY 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** (9 a.m. registration)

- ▶ Tributes to Che Guevara and Troy Davis

Go to [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org) and [www.workersworld.net](http://www.workersworld.net) for updates.

**SÁBADO 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.** (9 a.m. inscripción)

- ▶ Coloquios
- ▶ Sesión plenaria especial en la tarde sobre:  
“Rebelión global de las juventudes contra el capitalismo”,  
seguido por la participación de la audiencia  
(luego del almuerzo)
- ▶ Encuentro especial durante la cena sobre: **El Partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero: ¿Por qué y cómo unirse a él?**

**DOMINGO 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** (9 a.m. inscripción)

- ▶ Tributo al Ché Guevara y a Troy Davis

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NORTH CAROLINA

# Undocumented youth block intersection for college access

By Elisa Benitez-Hernandez  
Charlotte, N.C.

Seven undocumented youths blocked traffic in front of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 6. This civil disobedience was protesting the inaction of the Democratic Party, the harsh anti-immigrant agenda of the Republicans and Tea Party, and the outrageous out-of-state tuition imposed on undocumented students to attend community college.

The event started with a “coming-out” rally, with several youths sharing their stories and publicly announcing their undocumented status. Approximately 200 people, of all ages and backgrounds, gathered in support of their message and courageous actions. The rally proceeded to a march. Finally the youths sat in the middle of an intersection in uptown Charlotte, causing traffic to stall within minutes. At the top of their lungs they shouted, “Undocumented, unafraid! Undocumented, unashamed!”

Those arrested for civil disobedience include Alicia Torres, 25, of Carrboro, N.C.; Angelica Velazquillo, 25, of Charlotte; Manuel Vazquez, 21, of Raleigh, N.C.; Santiago Garcia, 20, of Asheville, N.C.; Cynthia Martinez, 20, of Sanford, N.C.; Martin Rodriguez, 20, of Hamptonville, N.C.; and Marco Saavedra, 21, of Cincinnati. However, the police also went on a rampage, arresting a total of 15 people that day. They included three more undocumented youths, two volunteer paramedics, a bystander and two Raleigh FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) members.

Those who were undocumented were taken and immediately processed at a Mecklenburg County, N.C., jail. Their cases were in the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and they awaited with uncertainty as to whether they would be released or deported. Fortunately, they were all released the next night and all deportation proceedings were dropped. “I even got my alien number — everything was set for me to go and why I didn’t go I don’t know,” said Garcia.

It was no coincidence that the date the youths held their action, Sept. 6, is also the kick-off date for the Democratic National Convention next year. The youths’ goal was for the Democratic Party to know they won’t stand by and be satisfied with empty words. NC DREAM Team ally Domenic Powell said, “This is what we have to do because these are young people whose lives are in limbo. If Democrats think we’re going to go with them, they need to remember they’re dealing with idealistic young people with nothing to lose.”

The arrested youths are frustrated that things have only gotten worse for them. They are now forced to pay out-of-state tuition and can only enroll in classes after all other U.S. residents have been enrolled. □



WW PHOTOS: DANTE STROBINO

Sept. 6 protesters occupy street with banner reading: “We will no longer remain in the shadows.”

## New Yorkers wish Chávez speedy recovery

About 600 to 700 people came to Riverside Church in New York City on the evening of Sept. 21 for an ecumenical prayer for the recovery of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, who is undergoing treatment for cancer in Cuba. The majority of the multinational crowd was Latino/a, but many others, including people from West Africa, participated. It was a mili-

tant and enthusiastic crowd, with people rising and chanting and waving the flags of their countries. A group of young Salvadorans in red FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) shirts often led the chanting.

President Evo Morales of Bolivia, who is here for the U.N. General Assembly, spoke, along with the foreign ministers of

Venezuela and Cuba. They all gave brief talks focusing on their wishes for President Chávez. Then, in a surprise, Chávez addressed the crowd live from the hospital in Cuba. He sounded strong and optimistic and said he was almost finished with his fourth round of chemotherapy, after which he expects to return to Venezuela.

— Bill Cecil

## Indian communist leader speaks to U.S. activists

By John Catalinotto  
New York

Manik Mukherjee, co-chairperson of the International Anti-Imperialist and People’s Solidarity Coordinating Committee and a leader of the Socialist Unity Center of India, spoke to a gathering of political activists in New York City at the Solidarity Center on Sept. 19.

Those at the meeting included Marxists and other activists originally from the Philippines, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India besides those working with the International Action Center in New York.

The IAPSCC is holding its third international conference, this one in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where it will coordinate its work with the mass movement there. Mukherjee said, “We are getting positive responses from many countries and expect it to be a big success.”

Mukherjee warned about the growing collaboration between U.S. imperialism and the government of India, which he characterized as “also an imperialist

power.” He gave a historic overview of the developments in India since the country’s liberation from Britain.

“In 1948-1949, the government produced a five-year plan and claimed that was socialism. Big industry was supposed to gradually go over to state ownership. (Jawaharlal) Nehru promoted this project.

“Many people believed state ownership was socialism. This is not so. The Communist Party of India at the time (it has since split into the Communist Party of India and the CPI-Marxist) both supported the Nehru government. They advocated nationalization of the banks. But U.S. imperialism knew it was not really socialism.”

Later, in response to a question, Mukherjee explained the difficulty posed to revolutionary parties because the CPI and the CPI-M have been the parties in state power, but the state is still a capitalist state. Thus the CPI-M takes the responsibility in many cases for crushing workers’ and peasants’ struggles, as they did over the last few years in West Bengal.

Mukherjee also differentiated his group from the Naxalites, who he said carry out their struggle with participation by the masses.

On U.S.-India relations, Mukherjee stated: “In 1948 India was a relatively weak capitalist or imperialist power. But it was able to accept help from both the United States and the Soviet Union, and gave the appearance of being neutral.

“Now Indian imperialism is much stronger. India and China have both been free of the economic crisis that is buffeting the U.S., Europe and Japan. The U.S., Britain, Germany, France, Italy are all suffering from recession.

“The collaboration between India and the U.S. will continue. India needs the U.S. market. Washington wants the alliance in order to contain China. Both target China.”

Mukherjee described the potential for further struggle in the country: “In India, 65 percent of the people live below the poverty line. Only 10 percent of the people are earning enough to live reason-

ably comfortably. A tiny number of very wealthy capitalists — among the richest people in the world — are able to buy industries in England. But industry is gradually being closed in India.

“Though India is doing relatively well now, we have no illusions that India will escape the capitalist crisis, which can’t be avoided.

“The capitalists are unable to invest in new industrial production, except in new war industries, and the governments spend on the ‘defense’ industry.

“However,” Mukherjee stressed, “there is no automatic development of class and political consciousness from the crisis. The capitalist economy is unable to provide, so people are rebelling. But in the absence of a revolutionary party this rebellion is limited. The subjective conditions are not there yet.

“A conscious proletarian movement will develop from within with the help of a Marxist-Leninist party. A revolutionary party will have to educate the people. This

Continued on page 10



## ON THE PICKET LINE

By Sue Davis

### ILWU Local 21 continues to defend jobs

The struggle of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 members to defend their jobs in Longview, Wash., continued Sept. 21. Nine women, all related to ILWU members, and Local 21 President Dan Coffman defied an injunction by sitting down on railroad tracks to prevent a train from delivering grain to a new facility where the EGT corporation has refused to hire ILWU members. After one woman protested that she was hurt during the arrest (her rotator cuff in one shoulder was torn), two union officers jumped to defend her and were later taken to the hospital after being viciously pepper sprayed.

In a prepared statement before his arrest, Coffman stated that the community pays “for law enforcement to protect the safety of local residents, not to act as private security detail for a multinational corporation that makes billions of dollars in profits every year.” A union statement noted that the police escort for the train — armed police from five area counties, an armored riot vehicle with a gun turret, and a SWAT team in black armored riot gear, including nightsticks and rifles — was “paid for by the very workers in the community of Cowlitz County that [EGT] is undermining and exploiting.” (The Daily News, Sept. 21)

### So. Calif. grocery workers win contract

When 62,000 grocery workers in Southern California voted to strike Sept. 18 after six months of unproductive negotiations with Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons, the companies immediately capitulated. According to a Sept. 19 Food and Commercial Workers union statement: “We have attained our most important goal, which was continuing to provide comprehensive health care to the members and their families.” (Los Angeles Times, Sept. 19) The companies’ capitulation shows that they sure don’t want a repeat of the 141-day strike in 2003 by checkers, baggers, meatcutters and other grocery workers, when the three companies lost an estimated \$2 billion.

### D.C. commercial cleaners demand raises

Negotiations began the week of Sept. 12 for a new union contract covering about 16,000 commercial cleaners represented by Service Employees Local 32BJ in the Washington, D.C., region.

Three rallies were held in Maryland’s Montgomery County the week of Sept. 19. “Montgomery County’s office market is growing and can afford to provide hard-working cleaners a raise,” 32BJ delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez told a rally in Silver Spring on Sept. 22. Wages range from \$9 per hour for part-time workers (\$9,360 a year) to \$12.60 for full-time cleaners (\$26,208 a year). The latter amount is barely over the federal poverty line of \$22,350 for a family of four.

More than 60,000 commercial cleaners from Hartford, Conn., to Virginia are united in this campaign to secure new contracts that raise wage and benefit standards. (Union City, online newsletter of the Washington Metro D.C. AFL-CIO, Sept. 23)

### Hyatt workers end strike, escalate boycott

After the UNITE HERE Local 2 strike against Hyatt Hotels ended during a rally and march Sept. 14 in San Francisco, along with strikes by locals in Chicago, Honolulu and Los Angeles, the workers announced they are redoubling efforts to enforce consumer boycotts at 16 Hyatt hotels across the country. The union has calculated that the boycott has already cost Hyatt more than \$20 million in convention and meeting business. A number of national organizations, including Families USA, the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum and the National Women’s Health Network, as well as local organizations in each city, have pledged to honor the boycott.

### N.J. public workers fight pension cuts

The Communication Workers and other unions representing New Jersey public workers filed a suit in federal court in early September to fight changes to employees’ pension plans. The unions charged Gov. Chris Christie and legislators with violating the New Jersey and U.S. constitutions in multiple ways. CWA New Jersey state director Hetty Rosenstein pointed out that workers have “earned every penny of their pensions, and if Trenton politicians won’t keep their promise, we have no choice but to go to court to force them to uphold their end of the bargain.” (CWA weekly online newsletter)

### Robeson committed to equality, unions

Labor Arts is offering a new online museum exhibit that features Paul Robeson’s fight for equality and unions. The premier African-American artist of the 20th century, who is also renowned as a scholar, athlete, actor and activist, Robeson linked the achievement of equality for African Americans and other people of color with full equality for all workers. Through Robeson’s longtime affiliation with the National Maritime Union, he sought to improve the working conditions of sailors on merchant ships and end racial discrimination on U.S. vessels. The exhibit at laborarts.org features eight songs by Robeson, including “Joe Hill” and “Ol’ Man River.” □

## Crackdowns on Wall Street

# Protesters expose role of the state

By Tony Murphy  
New York

Events of the past week have made it easy to see who is considered a criminal under the for-profit system known as capitalism.

Today, where are the architects of the war in Iraq, who lied about weapons of mass destruction and tortured people at Abu Ghraib? On book tours, or enjoying retirement.

What happened to the Wall Street gamblers who caused the foreclosure epidemic, forcing people out of their homes and crashing the economy? The government bailed them out — of course.

Yet, how were activists with the Occupy Wall Street movement treated as they marched on Sept. 24 through New York streets to protest war, unemployment and racism? They were tackled, punched, choked, tear-gassed, pepper-sprayed and arrested by the police.

That day upwards of 100 protesters were thrown in jail. Two days later, as of Sept. 26, many had not yet been released.

From the moment that hundreds of activists gathered at Zuccotti Park in lower Manhattan for a protest that targeted the New York Stock Exchange, and then marched two miles to Union Square, the New York Police Department harassed them.

While cops at first picked off individual marchers and arrested them one by one, the crowd grew to more than 1,000. As the protest then left Union Square to head back to Zuccotti Park, cops moved violently to shut the whole thing down. They threw punches, and pepper-sprayed and maced people in the face. Using gigantic orange nets to seal off 12th Street between University Place and Fifth Avenue, they split the march.

Uniformed and plainclothes cops threw people to the ground, or tripped and kicked them. The In-

ternet is chock-full of photos and videos showing the brutal police crackdown.

The suffering caused by Wall Street and the for-profit system is forcing people to go into the streets in cities all over the country, whether they are occupying financial districts in New York, Dallas or Chicago, or protesting the execution of Troy Davis.

They are increasingly encountering the police, courts and prison system — collectively referred to as the state by Marxists.

The campaign against Davis’ execution was a direct protest of the most naked exercise of the state and its unrelenting oppression of African Americans, Latinos/as and immigrant workers. The state of Georgia asserted its right to kill Davis anyway, in the face of recanted testimony by seven witnesses, a lack of physical and forensic evidence and a worldwide movement.

Rallies, marches and vigils for Troy Davis were part of the Occupy Wall Street protest of corporate rule. This crucial show of solidarity with the fight against racist repression is necessary, as the crisis of unemployment gets worse.

As the economy contracts and capitalist production stalls, the ruling class is less and less willing to give any concessions whatsoever. From Wisconsin to New York to Greece, the message of the bankers is: Accept the cutbacks, layoffs and foreclosures — or feel the wrath of the cops and the courts that protect us billionaires.

The execution of Troy Davis may make it seem like it is impossible to challenge the state. What can change that is improving the balance of forces in the struggle. Already the U.S. street occupation movement, which began in New York, is spreading to other cities.

If this developing movement continues to exercise solidarity in the fight against racism, other forms of oppression and the fight for jobs — then the movement has a fighting chance. □

## Farmworkers demand living wage

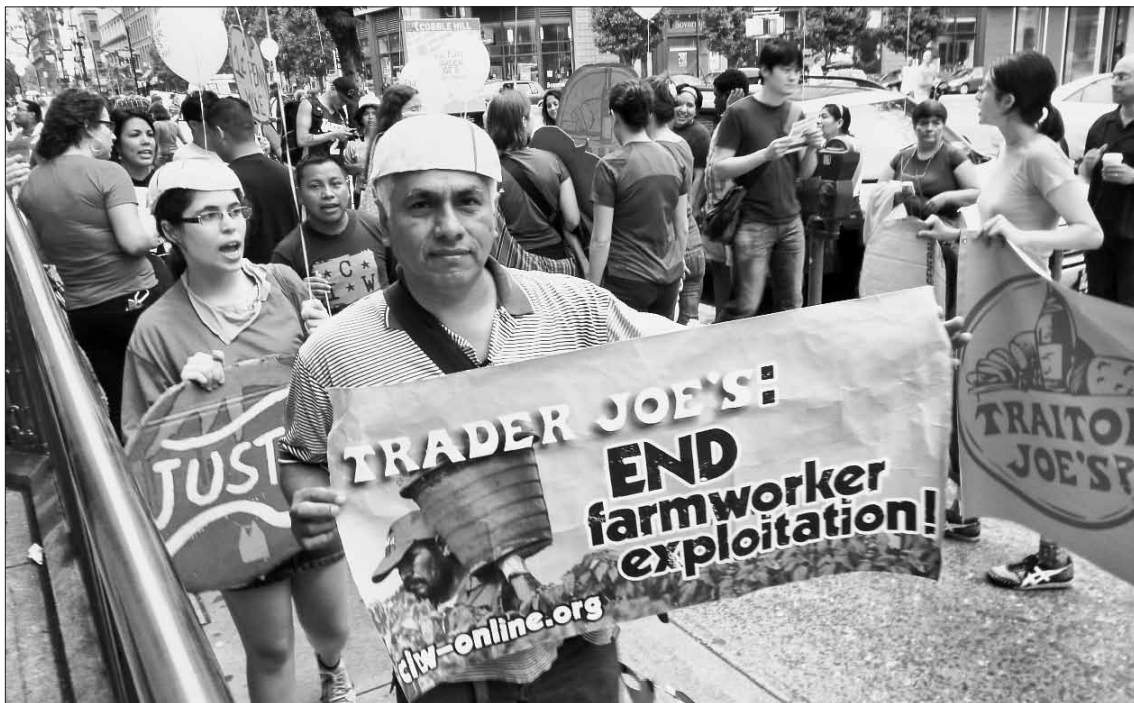


PHOTO: ROBERTO MERCADO

Leader of Jornaleros Unidos protests at the Brooklyn Trader Joe’s entrance in solidarity with the CIW, Sept. 24.

“No more slaves! Pay a living wage!” demanded a strong and spirited Brooklyn rally of 100 people at the entrance of a Trader Joe’s grocery store in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 24. Some protesters wore hats shaped like a tomato. The Coalition of Imbokalee Workers, an internationally recognized Florida farmworkers organization, is demanding that the multibillion dollar grocery chain agree to pay just one penny more per pound directly to the workers who pick the tomatoes that Trader Joe’s buys. While the CIW has agreements with nine of the world’s leading food retailers, including McDonald’s and Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s refuses such a “fair food agreement.”

Protesters explained to Trader Joe’s customers that farmworkers receive subpoverty wages and are subject to rampantly abusive working conditions and bosses, adding up to modern-day slavery in the fields where the tomatoes are harvested. Many who learned this information expressed their new support for the workers.

Members of the Food and Commercial Workers union, Jornaleros Unidos and the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights marched with the CIW.

“Trader Joe’s — shame on you! Farmworkers deserve rights, too!”

— Anne Pruden



# A POWERFUL MESSAGE FROM TROY DAVIS

## TO ALL:

I want to thank all of you for your efforts and dedication to human rights and human kindness, in the past year. I have experienced such emotion, joy, sadness and never-ending faith. It is because of all of you that I am alive today. As I look at my sister Martina I am marveled by the love she has for me and of course I worry about her and her health, but as she tells me she is the eldest and she will not back down from this fight to save my life and prove to the world that I am innocent of this terrible crime.

As I look at my mail from across the globe, from places I have never ever dreamed I would know about and people speaking languages and expressing cultures and religions I could only hope to one day see first hand. I am humbled by the emotion that fills my heart with overwhelming, overflowing Joy. I can't even explain the resurgence of emotion I feel when I try to express the strength I draw from you all; it compounds my faith and it shows me yet again that this is not a case about the death penalty; this is not a case about Troy Davis; this is a case about justice and the human spirit to see justice prevail.



I cannot answer all of your letters, but I do read them all. I cannot see you all but I can imagine your faces. I cannot hear you speak, but your letters take me to the far reaches of the world. I cannot touch you physically, but I feel your warmth every day I exist.

So thank you and remember I am in a place where execution can only destroy your physical form but because of my faith in God, my family and all of you I have been spiritually free for some time. And no matter what happens in the days, weeks to come, this movement to end the death penalty, to seek true justice, to expose a system that fails to protect the innocent must be accelerated. There are so many more Troy Davises. This fight to end the death penalty is not won or lost through me but through our strength to move forward and save every innocent person in captivity around the globe. We need to dismantle this unjust system city by city, state by state and country by country.

I can't wait to stand with you, no matter if that is in physical or spiritual form. I will one day be announcing, "I AM TROY DAVIS, and I AM FREE!"

**Never Stop Fighting for Justice and We Will Win!**

**TROY DAVIS**

Sept. 10, 2011

# The class forces that killed Troy Davis

By Steve Millies

The capitalist class killed Troy Davis. That's not a rhetorical statement. The U.S. Supreme Court could have stopped the execution. They let it go forward with a one-sentence statement.

Despite pleas from 51 members of Congress, Jimmy Carter and the Pope, the executioners in robes let the legal lynching take place in Georgia.

They tortured Troy Davis and his cancer-stricken sister, Martina Correia, for hours as the brother and sister waited for a decision following the 7 p.m. reprieve. If there was ever a violation of the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishment," it was this torture of Troy Davis waiting to die.

The five or more members of the Supreme Court who committed this torture are not just evil. They're evil tools of a capitalist class covered with the blood of the African Holocaust, the extermination of Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, and 500 years of other horrendous crimes leading up to the NATO bombing of Libya and the anti-Black pogroms there.

Vince Copeland, a founder of Workers World Party, pointed out that of all the branches of government, the Supreme Court is the most reactionary. Its beauty is that a big capitalist grouping only needs to control five of the nine justices to make billions of dollars.

This amounts to direct rule by a handful of capitalist families. It's a lot cheaper than buying up hundreds of members of Congress or the billions of dollars that a presidential campaign costs. The Rockefeller dynasty has traditionally used the courts — including judges on the U.S. Supreme Court — as one of its biggest clubs.

Weren't the Rockefellers considered part of the "liberal bourgeoisie"? At the 1964 Republican Convention, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller attacked Barry Goldwater and said there was "a whiff of fascism" there.

Seven years later Rockefeller massacred the Attica prisoners, exactly 40 years and eight days before Troy Davis was lynched. Nelson's brother David, the former head of Chase Manhattan, is a financial angel to the ultra-right "Manhattan Institute." One of its "experts" is Heather MacDonald, who arrogantly dismissed the police shooting 41 bullets at Amadou Diallo as the killing of a "tube-sock salesman."

## Capitalists & Caligula

Millions of people around the world spoke out against the execution of Troy Davis. The Supreme Court gave the green light to the lynching at the very moment when world leaders were gathering at the United Nations in New York City.

Why would these judges want to present the ugliest feature of U.S. society — its

profound racism and well-known history of lynching — to the rest of the world?

Wouldn't a smarter tactic be for the Supreme Court to intervene at the last minute to issue a stay of execution and show 7 billion people that "the rule of law" prevails in the U.S.? Wouldn't that be better news for Voice of America to broadcast?

The leaders of the capitalist class deliberately lynched Troy Davis in the face of 100 million oppressed people in the United States and billions of oppressed people on the planet. The capitalists aren't concerned about public relations with the majority of human beings. They want to show who's in charge. The Roman Emperor Caligula supposedly said, "Let them

hate me, so that they will but fear me." That could be the slogan of the U.S. military-industrial complex today.

## The class struggle & the death penalty

Troy Davis was lynched because the relationship of class forces was not in favor of the working class. This is not meant to disparage the efforts of people here and around the world who worked ceaselessly to try to save his life.

It's important to recognize that the working class as a whole has been thrown back around the world with the dire economic assault on their living standards due to this unprecedentedly global capitalist crisis. There will come a day when the workers will organize in their own interests on an international scale.

The lynching of Troy Davis took place at the same time as the imperialists are attempting to occupy the African country of Libya. The "masters of the universe" on Wall Street are deliberately letting hundreds of thousands of Africans starve to death in Somalia.

Like murdering Troy Davis, the starving of Somali children is considered necessary to show "who's in charge."

Here are two examples of protests that became decisive as a class force. As if it was a football game, Philadelphia Judge Albert Sabo was "running out the clock" on Mumia Abu-Jamal's hearing in 1995. Everything seemed greased to take Mumia to the execution chamber. Then Sabo suddenly announced that Mumia would not be executed, "of course," while the hearing was going on.

What was the cause of this retreat by the capitalist state? The vanguard efforts — a massive emergency protest in Philadelphia and international support — to save Mumia's life were taking place at the same time as the Million Man March was being organized house-by-house throughout Black America, largely by millions of African-American women. The ruling class had really no idea what might occur when a million Black people showed up in Washington, D.C.

More importantly, the struggle to save Mumia's life in 1995 was taking place just three years after the Los Angeles rebellion. Now that was certainly a class force. Despite the fact that the capitalist class wanted to silence Mumia forever, they were halted in their tracks.

## Attack on affirmative action

The wealthy and powerful never wanted affirmative action. The Bakke case gave them the club to set it back. Their California Supreme Court — the Bank of America's Supreme Court — had already backed this racist attempt to abolish any promise of equality.

All the U.S. Supreme Court had to do was have five judges agree with the bigots in California. It was rumored that Jimmy Carter's friend and U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell was planning to back racist Bakke.

Then the April 15, 1978, mobilization to overturn the Bakke decision came to Washington, D.C. More than 35,000 people marched. WWP played an outstanding role in helping to build this action. This was possibly the largest mobilization of Black students up to that time.

This occurred before 30 years of wholesale deindustrialization. Hundreds of thousands of Black workers were still in dozens of steel and auto plants and thousands of other factories. This was a real class force that the capitalist class had to consider in its deliberations. Attorney General Bell was compelled not to support the Bakke decision. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell's decision threw affirmative action back, but didn't abolish it. Even this mixed result was a product of class struggle.

## 'Georgia Justice' & 'New York Justice'

The South is the capital of capital punishment. It's not accidental that three-fourths of the executions since 1977 have

**WW**  
Commentary



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL



# Troy Davis execution raises old questions, new challenges

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Troy Davis was put to death by the state of Georgia with the complicity of the federal government of the United States. This was done even though millions of people came out in his defense across the country and around the world.

This blatant disregard of popular will speaks volumes as it relates to the commitment of the U.S. ruling class to the maintenance and implementation of the death penalty. This form of punishment is largely reserved for nationally oppressed and working-class inmates.

The Associated Press reported, “Outside the prison, a crowd of more than 500 demonstrators cried, hugged, prayed and held candles.” Even this corporate media giant noted that “the small army repre-

sented hundreds of thousands of supporters worldwide who took up the anti-death penalty cause as Davis’ final days ticked away.” (Sept. 22)

The gross violations of human and civil rights carried out as state policy by the ruling class far outweigh any transgressions taking place among the proletariat —transgressions that are largely the result of the exploitative conditions under which the proletariat lives within capitalist society.

However, crimes against humanity are not treated with the same prosecutorial vigor. The role of banks, transnational corporations and state institutions in the individual and collective acts of violence and discrimination against the oppressed and working class are rarely even pursued within the legal system or the capitalist-controlled media.

The admitted racist killer of African-American James Byrd Jr. in Texas was executed the same day as Davis’ execution. However, this by no means deflects attention away from the injustice carried out against Troy Davis. The conviction and execution of white racists for the lynching of African Americans is extremely rare and does not contribute anything to the overall struggle against national oppression in the U.S.

## ‘I am Troy Davis’

Davis’ family members and supporters raised the debate surrounding the death penalty in the U.S. to new and unprecedented levels. Hundreds of thousands signed online petitions demanding clemency and a new trial for Davis, who maintained his innocence to the very end.

In cities across the U.S. and the world, people held demonstrations from Sept. 16, which was designated as an international day of action, until the night of the execution and in the days afterwards. T-shirts, buttons, banners and slogans spoke out in solidarity with the campaign to end the death penalty, proclaiming, “I am Troy Davis.”

Protesters outside the Jackson, Ga., prison where Davis was executed chanted, “They say ‘death row,’ we say ‘hell no!’” In Washington, outside the Supreme Court and the White House, people demanded that the life of this African American be spared. Several people there were arrested for acts of civil disobedience.

Just prior to the lethal injection that prematurely took her brother’s life, Davis’ sister Martina Correia pointed out, “Troy Davis has impacted the world. They say, ‘I am Troy Davis,’ in languages he can’t speak.” (AP, Sept. 22)

Correia had told Davis, “We’re not just fighting for your innocence; we’re fighting the judicial system here.” (Christian Post Contributor, Sept. 23)

Troy’s younger sister, Kim Davis, remarked that people were surprised that the family was not emotionally distraught. She explained that her brother “told us before, ‘Even though the state of Georgia may execute me, they will only take my physical body, never my soul.’”

According to reports from Correia, in the days leading up to the execution, her brother’s attitude remained positive and his spirits were high. She said that during visits they discussed memories of the family and joked about past experiences.

## States rights and federal intervention

Davis’ execution must not be viewed solely within the context of the state of Georgia and its death penalty laws. In fact, the federal government played a piv-

otal role in his legal lynching.

Although a federal court evidentiary hearing was held in 2009, the judge refused to overturn the death penalty despite the lack of physical evidence and the recanting of testimony by numerous witnesses from the initial trial in 1991. On the evening of the execution, the U.S. Supreme Court failed to issue a requested stay, without providing any legal explanation.

The Obama administration refused to address the case until after Troy Davis was executed, under the guise that it would have been inappropriate since the case involved legal issues within the Georgia judicial system. President Obama is not an opponent of the death penalty.

The argument that the federal government cannot intervene to override state laws and actions that violate constitutional law is the same rationale that was used during the Confederacy over the question of slavery. Even after the Civil War, in the Reconstruction period, former planters cried foul, that the federal government could not impose on states due process rights supposedly guaranteed under the 14th Amendment and voting rights mandated by the 15th Amendment.

During the struggle for civil rights, segregationists argued that the federal government had no right to mandate the breakdown of the Jim Crow system of segregation because it was the law of the Southern states. Similar arguments against the 14th Amendment, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 have been advanced by conservative spokespersons in recent years.

Under the Democratic Clinton administration of the 1990s, restrictions were placed on the ability of death row inmates to appeal their cases through the federal courts when there are serious legal discrepancies involved. It was during this period that the U.S. Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Bill of 1994 and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996.

While Bill Clinton, then governor of Arkansas, was running for president, he broke off campaigning to return to Arkansas in order to sign the death warrant against Ricky Ray Rector, a 40-year-old African-American man with brain damage who was convicted of killing a police officer.

Torrance Stephens of ThyBlackMan.com states, “Rector was executed although the Arkansas Supreme Court said that Rector’s was a case that should be considered for executive clemency. ...Clinton continued to state his support for the death penalty after this period. In 1994 he pushed a crime bill through Congress that allowed prosecutors to seek the federal death penalty in 60 more crimes than

they could prior, including for murder of a law enforcement officer. He ignored critics who requested a nationwide moratorium on federal executions. He made “three-strikes-you’re-out” the law of the land, so that criminals go to jail for life, with no chance of parole.” (Sept. 19)

Stephens stresses that, “Yes, the fate of Troy Davis is due to the Democratic Party and their hard-line laws against crime, which, when implemented, disparately impact African Americans.” He notes, “In Clinton’s first six years as president, more than 300 people were executed, compared to 185 during the 12 years of the Republican presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush.” Under the Clinton administration, during 1997 alone, 74 people were executed —the most in a single year since 1956.

It is ironic that the Obama administration would evoke the rights of states to impose the death penalty against oppressed people in 2011. The fact that the death penalty was imposed and upheld despite reasonable doubt indicates clearly that the federal government, even under a Democratic administration, cannot be relied upon to protect the rights and interests of historically oppressed groups inside the U.S.

## End the prison industrial complex

In the U.S. today there are approximately 2.5 million people being held in local, state and federal detention centers. The legal and prison systems in the U.S. negatively impact the oppressed nations and the working class in general.

Africans and Latinos/as are disproportionately impacted by the police, courts, prisons and parole boards due to the continuing legacy of racism and national discrimination. The prison system has become a huge reservoir of slave labor, since large-scale production is carried out in cooperation with the corporate community and the state.

The execution of Troy Davis came on the heels of the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of George Jackson in August 1971 and the Attica prison rebellion in September of that same year. Over the last several months, the U.S. has witnessed a new wave of prison activism and solidarity, with the inmates’ strike in Georgia, the hunger strike among the Lucasville 5 death row prisoners in Ohio and the recent strike by people locked up in Pelican Bay and other “correctional” facilities in California.

Until the capitalist system in the U.S. is overthrown there can be no justice for the oppressed and workers in the criminal justice apparatus of the state. Only under a socialist system will the full rights of self-determination and equality for the oppressed and working people be enshrined in law and social practice. □

WW  
Commentary

taken place in the 11 states that formed the confederacy. Slavery is fundamental to U.S. political culture. Virtually every state’s prison system is called a “Department of Corrections.” “Correction” was the term used by so-called “slave masters” to describe whippings and other punishments carried out against enslaved people.

“Georgia Justice” lynched Troy Anthony Davis. ‘New York Justice’ let the cops who killed Sean Bell with 50 shots go free. “New York Justice” allowed the former head of the International Monetary Fund to go free after sexually assaulting an African hotel worker.

The state of Georgia murdered Troy Davis in a case where there was no physical evidence. New York City’s District Attorney let Dominique Strauss-Kahn go free despite having the physical evidence they needed to convict him.

“New York Justice” includes the New York Times, which printed a fairly decent editorial against the execution of Troy Davis on the day of his lynching. However, the Times didn’t conduct an intense campaign before the day of his execution to save his life.

## Troy Davis didn’t die in vain

What will become a real class force is the courage of Troy Davis and his family. Sharon Black, an organizer of the “Abolish Capitalism” conference in Baltimore on Sept. 24, told this writer of the deep feelings in that city after the execution. Troy Davis will not be forgotten.

Tens of millions of people are asking themselves how this atrocity could have happened. Many must be wondering what we can do to stop another lynching. Our job is to go to people with our socialist program, as activists did at the Baltimore conference, which was dedicated to Troy Davis.

People stopped me while I went around New York City with signs to save Troy Davis’ life. Millions of people have loved ones locked up in prison. “Troy Davis” will be the watchword for a struggle sure to come to abolish the racist death penalty and to bring millions of prisoners home.

The capitalist class hopes this lynching will intimidate the people. But any intimidation will certainly turn into organized fightback. The courage of Troy Davis will help wake up our class.

Long live the memory of Troy Davis. □



WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD





The Rev. Gatewood speaking at Sept. 21 rally in Chapel Hill, N.C.

WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

# People protest the murder of Troy Davis

By Gene Clancy

On Sept. 21, as the hour of Troy Davis’ legal murder grew closer, people across the country expressed their outrage at the U.S. government and the state of Georgia. Their numbers and militancy exposed the lie that is the so-called U.S. “justice” system.

In Philadelphia, up to 100 death penalty opponents leafleted passersby and chanted for hours and then took over the busy streets at the 7 p.m. scheduled execution hour. When news came that the Supreme Court had stayed the execution, they chanted, “Power to the people!” and raised fists together on the City Hall steps. Upon receiving news that it was just a temporary stay, they retook the street. The police called for reinforcements and eventually pushed the demonstrators to the sides. For the next hour, demonstrators continuously disrupted traffic, timed to the green and red walk/don’t walk signals, as the police attempted to clear the protesters from the crosswalks.

In downtown Detroit, the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice and Amnesty International jointly called an emergency demonstration from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. outside the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. The protesters received a very favorable response from people on the street, with several joining the demonstration. One woman who joined in stated that her brother was just released after 30 years of unjust incarceration. A man on a bicycle stopped and told activists that he had a friend who was executed in Alabama in 1959 for al-



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSHBAUM

legedly raping and killing a white woman, but he was innocent. Many cars, buses and taxis honked, and people gave a fist salute in recognition of and solidarity with the demonstrators and with Troy Davis.

In Harlem, N.Y., people gathered at the Adam Clayton Powell State Building and marched down 125th Street in a militant demonstration lasting well into the night. They chanted, “Free Troy Davis! Stop the execution!” Many signs and a large banner carried the same message. Police attacked several solidarity demonstrations throughout New York City in the days before and after Davis’s execution.

With less than 24 hours notice and in spite of heavy rains, a multinational group

of nearly 150 students and community members gathered on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s campus on Sept. 21 for a spirited rally against the execution of Troy Davis. The demonstration was organized by the NAACP, the Black Student Movement, Amnesty International and Students for a Democratic Society. Student speakers denounced the execution, cited the facts of the case that proved Troy Davis was innocent and exposed the death penalty as one aspect of broader systemic racism in U.S. society. Between speakers, chants of “Free Troy Davis!” and “What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!” filled the air, along with a number of civil rights songs. The Rev. Curtis Gatewood of the North Carolina NAACP closed the rally with a speech that motivated the crowd to continue to build a movement to dismantle the racist death penalty.

Ben Carroll, Kris Hamel, Joe Piette and Brenda Sandburg contributed to this report.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

## TROY DAVIS: ‘Dismantle this unjust system’

Continued from page 1

and the many appeals. It was general knowledge that Troy has always said he was innocent and that seven of the nine trial witnesses had since recanted their testimony, many charging Savannah police with intimidating them into giving false testimony. The public knew that there was no physical evidence tying Troy to the killing of Savannah police officer Mark MacPhail; moreover, people knew that there was substantial testimony identifying another man as the shooter.

The case of Troy Davis was not just something that people had vaguely heard about. There was identity with the slogan, “I am Troy Davis.” His support grew and grew in the time following the denial of clemency by the Georgia Pardons and Parole Board on Sept. 20.

Last-minute appeals were launched for the White House and the Justice Department to intervene. Troy’s family and others brought more than 200,000 petitions asking to rescind the death warrant to Chatham County District Attorney Larry Chisolm on the morning of Sept. 21. Six former corrections officials — including Allen Ault, who had served as warden

of the Jackson, Ga., prison that houses death row — issued a call for the prison staff not to carry out the execution, citing the lifelong trauma, guilt and shame to be felt in executing a likely innocent man. Emergency briefs were filed in Georgia courts and then with the Supreme Court.

As the hour of the execution drew near, a large sign-carrying crowd amassed in front of the Georgia State Capitol, where car horns blared to signal opposition to the death sentence. Similar actions were held across the country. In Jackson, Ga., people by the hundreds stood for hours along the road leading to the prison. Facing them was the armed might of the state: police from multiple jurisdictions, wearing full riot gear and carrying tear gas, Tasers and other weapons. Hope buoyed the crowds wherever they were gathered when the Supreme Court held off the scheduled 7 p.m. execution to consider Troy’s appeal. A few hours later, with no comment, the judges refused to intervene.

Troy Davis spent more than 20 years on death row. He had faced three other execution dates — a form of mental and psychological torture hard to fathom. His struggle to proclaim his innocence and

win justice transformed his life. The message he wrote to his supporters days before his murder at the hands of the state is remarkable for its generosity of spirit and confidence in the people’s ability to struggle for justice and win.

With his last words as he lay strapped to a gurney, waiting for the lethal injection to begin, Troy again stated his innocence. He urged the witnesses in the viewing room to continue to search for the truth of who killed MacPhail.

At every location where protests were held on Sept. 21, Davis’ written call to his supporters was repeated and reinforced. He made clear that there have been other Troy Davises in the past — innocent people convicted and executed by a thoroughly racist and unfair judicial system. He appealed for support for the other Troy Davises currently on death row. And he spoke about the more than 2 million people held today in U.S. prisons and jails, so many just like him — young, coming from communities of color, workers, often poor.

Davis’ message to all those who signed petitions, wrote letters, demonstrated and worked tirelessly to save his life was to transfer that passion and commitment

to the ending of capital punishment in the U.S., and to always fight for justice.

### Georgia’s brutal and racist history

Georgia has a long and bloody history. It begins with the importation and sale of enslaved Africans and continues through the brutal forced removal of Cherokee and other Indigenous peoples on the Trail of Tears.

It stretches from the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot — when 10,000 white men and boys rampaged through downtown Atlanta in a murderous frenzy, killing and beating Black people and burning down their businesses — to the 1915 lynching of Leo Frank by an anti-Jewish mob comprised of prominent Marietta, Ga., community leaders. The days of Jim Crow segregation spawned the 1946 Ku Klux Klan killing of two Black couples at Moore’s Ford Bridge.

The death penalty in Georgia goes back to the earliest colonial days, when capital punishment was directed at quashing resistance by those enslaved as well as at abolitionist organizing. Capital punishment is the ultimate tool by an exploitative ruling class bent on maintaining its

Continued on page 9



## YEMEN

# President's return sharpens the struggle

By G. Dunkel

President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned to Yemen from Saudi Arabia on Sept. 23, in a move that surprised his critics, supporters and the U.S. government, which has just intensified its drone campaign in Yemen.

Adel Shamsan, one of the leaders of the protest encampment that has seen thousands of protesters occupy the square in front of the capital city's Sana'a University for months, told the New York Times, "It [Saleh's speech to the nation] does not concern us. After he killed all these people, we don't care." (Sept. 26)

What made Shamsan so bitter were the government attacks on the protesters, which killed more than 76 people and injured more than 100 right after Saleh's return. Government forces, under the control of Saleh's family, rained mortars and sniper fire on the unarmed protesters in front of the university.

Government forces also attacked soldiers loyal to Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsin al-Ahmar, who split from the Saleh family in March, as well as armed supporters of the powerful Ahmar family (unrelated to the major general).

Besides these competing forces in Sana'a, there is also a rebellion in the

north, conducted by tribes on the Saudi border who practice a distinct form of Islam. In addition, Islamic groups in the south from time to time manage to seize a small town or port on the Gulf of Aden.

Saudi Arabia's small, hereditary ruling class has been financially supporting reactionary sheiks and local rulers in Yemen for decades (See the book, "Yemen: Dancing on the Heads of Snakes," by Victoria Clark, Yale University Press, 2010)

The southern part of Yemen was a British colony from 1840 until 1967, when a national liberation movement finally succeeded in kicking out the British. The resulting socialist government in southern Yemen lasted until 1990, when it merged with the northern government, which has been led by Saleh since July 1978. Even after a brief but bloody civil war in 1994, there has been a progressive current, mainly centered in the port of Aden, calling itself socialist.

The United States wants to protect the 3.3 million barrels of oil a day — more or less depending on the state of the world's economy — that flow through the straits of Bal-el-Mandeb, off Yemen's southern coast.

The U.S. is aggressively expanding its drone war in East Africa and Yemen. It is setting up more and more bases, both



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Demonstration in Brooklyn, N.Y., in solidarity with the people of Yemen, Sept. 24.

in East Africa, in the Seychelles and in the Arabian Peninsula, which will allow more flights over Yemen. U.S. officials claim these efforts are designed to target al-Qaida in the region, but they can actually be used against any opponent of U.S. interests.

Yemen is the poorest country in the

Arab world. The Yemeni people want a better standard of living, democratic rights, an end to foreign intervention and a fairer economy. They are demanding to get what they want. Their mass occupations of the capital city of Sana'a and other major Yemeni cities are continuing, despite bloody and murderous attacks. □

# Abu Ghraib defense attorney faces murder charge

By Dolores Cox

Enraged anti-war activists are being asked to pack the courtroom on Oct. 11 in support of Paul Bergrin, an attorney who has attempted to hold military and government officials accountable for the torture administered at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Former President George Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

authority over all those whose labor provides its profits.

It was Georgia's capricious and arbitrary use of the death penalty, as revealed in the 1972 Furman v. Georgia case, that caused the Supreme Court to declare a moratorium on capital punishment. Subsequent Georgia cases before the highest court permitted the resumption of the death penalty and denied admission of historical patterns of racial bias as evidence.

Recent statistics show that Georgia has the third-highest poverty rate in the U.S. It ranks among the top states for foreclosures. Its unemployment figures are consistently higher than the national average. On every index of social well-being — from health to educational quality and so on — Georgia is near the bottom of the list.

Without a doubt, Georgia's red clay soil is stained with the blood of many, many victims of racism, poverty and bigotry.

This blatant injustice after Davis' 22-year struggle to claim his innocence before numerous courts has torn away the veneer of due process and legality and revealed the ugliness of this class- and race-based judicial system. In Troy Davis' name, the time for mass struggle, organization and resistance is now!

*On the morning of Sept. 22, the state of Georgia issued an execution warrant for Marcus Ray Johnson, to be carried out between Oct. 5 and 12.*

are certainly guilty of war crimes, along with former Vice-President Dick Cheney, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and White House counsel Alberto Gonzales (who later became U.S. attorney general). These high-level criminals deliberately and intentionally lied, denying any knowledge of torture techniques at Abu Ghraib. Torture is unlawful, in violation of the Geneva Convention and the U.S. Department of Defense's own rules of engagement for detainment and interrogation.

Bergrin, a renowned defense attorney for the poor and people of color, former military officer and former prosecutor, has been aggressively fighting to put Bush and Rumsfeld on trial for the abuses in Iraq. Bergrin was one of the first people to expose documents issued that authorized hooding, nudity and the use of dogs at Abu Ghraib.

In 2004 and 2005 Bergrin sought to have Bush and Rumsfeld held accountable. When Bush announced in 2004 that he wanted Abu Ghraib destroyed, Bergrin got a court order to stop Bush's actions, declaring the prison a crime scene.

Bergrin also has been the only attorney in U.S. military history to win the right to put a high-ranking military official, Col. Michael Steele, on the stand. In 2006, Steele commanded a unit of the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. Under his command, Iraqi civilians were repeatedly detained, and villages regularly raided, by U.S. soldiers. One such raid, called Operation Iron Triangle, involved the killing of four unarmed Iraqis on an island in northern Salahuddin province. The soldiers, one of whom Bergrin is representing, were given orders to shoot on sight any male Iraqi of military age. Incidentally, the movie "Black Hawk Down" is based on Col. Steele's exploits in Somalia.

Steele was granted immunity in exchange for his testimony but has yet to

take the stand. In January 2007, a week before the case was to be heard in court, Bergrin was arrested on unsubstantiated charges. As a result, the Operation Iron Triangle case never went to trial. The soldier Bergrin was defending, Corey Clagett, consequently took a plea bargain. He and two other soldiers were court-martialed, imprisoned and given 10- to 18-year prison sentences.

In April 2009, Bergrin publicly announced in the Newark Star Ledger his intention to reopen one of the Abu Ghraib cases after the Obama administration released documents implicating the White House in the authorization of the Abu Ghraib tortures. Bergrin again attempted to exonerate Clagett and further demanded that Clagett be tried in the U.S., not Iraq, so that the U.S. public could learn more about what was going on.

The following month Bergrin was arrested a second time under an array of charges. At his bail hearing in Newark, N.J., prosecutors filed a detention request by a Drug Enforcement Agency special agent, claiming that Bergrin shouldn't be released on bail because he had assets

overseas, four false passports and had ordered an FBI informant to kill a witness. The corporate media have also been unjustly vilifying him.

Although none of the prosecutor's statements were corroborated, Judge Madeline Arleo denied the bail request and included a \$50,000 fine. Bergrin was immediately put in solitary confinement for nine months — and remains in prison to this day.

On Oct. 11, Bergrin's trial is scheduled to begin in a federal court in Newark. The judge has ruled that he can defend himself, but will have to wear an electric shock bracelet while in court so that U.S. marshals can shock him should he get too close to the jury box or venture beyond his designated podium.

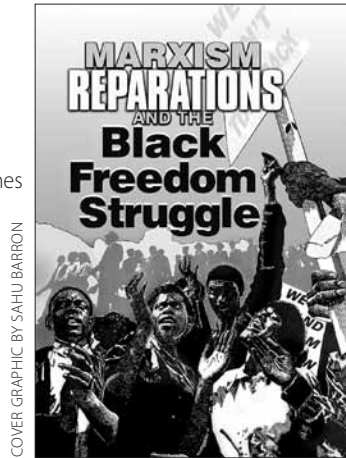
Meanwhile, the Guantanamo Bay prison is still open for business. And the killing and torturing of Middle Eastern civilians by the U.S. government has become "acceptable under certain conditions" — all under the guise of the so-called "war on terror."

For more information visit [www.paul-bergrin.org](http://www.paul-bergrin.org). □

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes:

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**WORKERS WORLD**  
*editorial*

# Two executions, one weapon

As people in the U.S. and around the world watched in horror and protested the racist execution of 42-year-old African-American Troy Davis, with much less publicity another execution had taken place hours before Davis died on Sept. 21. At the death house in Huntsville, Texas, white supremacist Lawrence Russell Brewer also died from lethal injection for his role in the heinous lynching of a 49-year-old Black man, James Byrd, in 1998. Byrd was beaten, chained to the back of a pickup truck and then dragged for many miles on the outskirts of Jasper, East Texas. Byrd's body was totally dismembered. Brewer's accomplices, John William King and Shawn Berry, were also convicted of first-degree murder. King is on death row and is appealing his sentence. Berry received a life-in-prison term.

Many applauded the execution of Brewer for this unspeakable atrocity — a response which, of course, is totally understandable. But there are broader, political implications to consider, all tied to the death penalty and how it is implemented under capitalism. Here is an obvious question: Was it just a coincidence that both of these executions were scheduled for the same day?

Knowing how the real rulers of the U.S. -- the bankers and corporate bosses — consciously use “democratic” institutions to protect their private ownership of the means of producing everything in society, the answer to that question is no. The ruling class uses its repressive state — the prisons, courts, police, media and yes, even politicians — to wield control over the workers and the oppressed, whether through sham elections or outright violent repression.

But the biggest weapon the ruling class uses against the masses is how and what to think. By scheduling both executions on the same day, the bosses were hoping that the Brewer execution would help soften the blow of Davis' execution. In the eyes of the ruling class, the lives of both men were expendable. That, however, is where the comparison ends. Millions of people saw right through the façade.

Troy Davis was an outright victim of police and prosecutorial misconduct from the time he was falsely arrested in 1989 for the shooting death of an off-duty, white police officer. Seven of the nine witnesses who testified against him during the original trial eventually recanted their testimony, citing police coercion. There was no DNA or other physical evidence presented at the trial. The Georgia board of pardons, under the guise of the bankrupt U.S. Supreme Court, sent Davis

to his death based on “legal procedures,” not on the reasonable doubt based on what turned out to be unreliable witnesses. These criminal forces were more concerned about protecting the tarnished image of the police and the judicial process than about saving the life of an innocent, working-class African American.

Brewer's act of terror against James Byrd cannot be viewed as the act of three lone racists. Many white workers like Brewer have been indoctrinated with racism; the lynching of Byrd was an extreme violent reflection of racist attitudes, which come in many forms. This racism is institutionalized throughout U.S. society and serves the interests of the ruling class as a deterrent to building working-class unity. Scheduling these two executions at the same time was an insulting political ploy to reinforce the death penalty as a necessary instrument for meting out impartial justice. But under capitalism, an economic system that instills forms of social inequality and exploitation of labor to make profits, there ultimately cannot be real justice for workers and the poor.

Ross Byrd, James Byrd's son, spoke out against the execution of his father's killer, stating, “You can't fight murder with murder. Life in prison would have been fine. I know he can't hurt my daddy anymore. I wish the state would take in mind that this isn't what we want.” (Reuters, Sept. 21)

Ross Byrd's voice against the death penalty is important because family members of the victim of a crime are usually used to reinforce the death penalty. The reality of the death penalty is becoming more and more apparent as the worldwide capitalist economic crisis becomes more and more contagious, like an out-of-control virus with no cure.

But as repression deepens so does resistance, and there are growing signs that this resistance will spread. Activists everywhere have put out a call for solidarity occupations in protest of the vicious police attacks captured on videotape during the spontaneous “Occupy Wall Street” march on Sept. 24. Many of these actions are being called in the spirit of Troy Davis and in support of abolishing the death penalty. Workers World Party stands in solidarity with the “Occupy Wall Street” actions and all of the acts of resistance to come against all forms of oppression. □



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

## GREECE

# Workers, international capital struggle over possible default

By G. Dunkel

While international finance ministers, treasury officials and bankers were scurrying around Washington at the fall meeting of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank, and Polish political leaders were attending a mass to pray for European Union unity — all in an attempt to stave off a Greek default on its “sovereign debt” — Greek workers were drawing the lessons of a 24-hour strike that shut down transportation in the country and preparing for general strikes called for Oct. 5 and Oct. 25.

Striking taxi drivers and bus, metro and rail workers meant that commuters in Athens had to use cars on Sept. 22, causing immense traffic jams. “The situation is dramatic, all major streets are jammed,” said one traffic police official. Air traffic controllers also struck, delaying flights or causing them to be canceled. This may have had an impact on tourism, a major industry in Greece. (Reuters, Sept. 23).

The nationwide strike saw 1,000 members of the communist group MAS marching to Parliament, chanting “Resist!” and “Plutocracy should pay for this crisis!” Another 6,000 students, some wearing gas masks, and teachers joined them outside the national Legislature. There was a huge deployment of riot police.

A few days later, a small protest march in Athens on Sept. 25 was broken up by brutal police attacks involving clouds of tear gas and baton charges. Public transportation system workers went out on a reaction strike the next day. (NPR) The main slogan of the Sept. 25 protest was, “No to further taxes, no to salary cuts, no to poverty.”

The bankers fear that a Greek default would destroy the European Union and the eurozone — those 16 countries that use the euro as their common currency. The workers fear that the austerity measures a bailout plan would impose, added to the draconian measures already in place, would lead to financial genocide for the Greek workers.

### Will austerity work?

Conditions for workers in Greece are verging on catastrophic. The economy has been in a recession since 2008. Following a 4.4 percent decline in the economy last year, the forecast is for a 5 percent decline this year, along with 16 percent unemployment.

A number of private employers have cut pay by up to 30 percent, which is also the amount that the government has slashed some pensions. There have been dramatic price hikes in the last 15 months: a 100

percent increase for diesel fuel and gas; 50 percent for electricity, heat and public transport. It has raised the value-added tax on many goods and services, including food, from 13 percent to 23 percent. One-third of the country's 165,000 small businesses have shut down; another third can no longer pay wages.

Government employees and employees of quasi-state corporations like Olympic Airlines and the hospitals have not been paid for months. They are promised a check in October — or “next year.” In the Ministry of Culture, many employees who worked on refurbishing the Acropolis have not been paid a salary for 22 months. (Die Presse, Vienna, Sept. 22).

The government has just imposed a very heavy real estate tax that many Greeks, reeling under the blows of harsh cuts, won't be able to pay. The government will then order power company workers to turn off the power of these sister and brother workers. The power workers union says it will not cooperate in depriving people of one of the essentials of life.

Even with all these cuts and the damage done to workers and their living standards, the solvency targets set by the IMF and the European Central Bank have not been met. According to a Finance Ministry report of Sept. 22, the government's net revenues were \$4.7 billion below target and its expenses \$1.35 billion above target for the first seven months of 2011.

### Real bailout to German & French banks

Eric Toussaint, president of the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt in Belgium, points out in the book, “la Dette ou La Vie,” that the charter of the eurozone (Article 125 of the Treaty of Lisbon) forbids the ECB from directly buying the bonds of one of its members. When a country joins the eurozone and adopts the euro as its currency, it gives up the right to control its own money supply with its own central bank. It has to use the ECB. It is even prohibited from borrowing from another eurozone country.

But while the ECB can't lend to Greece by buying its bonds, it can lend to private banks, mainly in France and Germany. These banks get euros from the ECB in the short term for 1 percent and then turn around and lend them to Greece (or Ireland, Portugal or Spain) at 2 percent or 3 percent. It's a very profitable business.

Greece's bailout funds might go into its vaults but they don't spend much time there — their destiny is to prop up the big French and German banks that lent Greece money.

When Greece joined the eurozone it got subsidies and aid for its agriculture and industries. But the German economy is much more productive — it is the world's second largest exporter after China — and the German bosses know how to drive their workers to the limits of their strength. With Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain in the eurozone, Germany had an assured market for its goods, which it could produce at better quality and for cheaper costs than these poorer countries. The situation is an updated version of 19th century mercantile exchange.

The world's bourgeoisie faces two problems in Greece. One, it is impossible to pay off a country's loans when conditions are driving that country deeper and deeper into recession. Two, the Greek working class is combative and organized. It is going to fight very hard when its back is to the wall. □

## Indian leader in U.S.

*Continued from page 4*

can only be done under the leadership of a communist party in India.”

Clearly referring to organizing internationally, including in the United States, Mukherjee said, “a party like Workers World Party will have to expand its influence and will have to explain to the people what will be needed.”

“It is impossible to solve the problems of the crisis — to provide for health, jobs, environment, peace — while maintaining the same system we have today. We will need a system of peoples' power like the soviets of the 1917 Russian Revolution.” □



# NATO’s Libya war opens door to AFRICOM

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

This year’s 66th General Assembly of the United Nations took place within the context of the worsening security and economic situation internationally. The Western industrialized capitalist states have escalated their military aggression amid deteriorating social conditions for billions throughout the world. With the United States government still projecting the posture of the sole global superpower, the majority of countries attending the gathering could not be satisfied with its outcome.

Various speeches before the General Assembly addressed the disproportionate power the imperialist states of North America and Western Europe wield within the Security Council of the U.N. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe noted that Africa was the only region of the world not represented as a permanent member of the highest organ within the world body.

With the U.S.-NATO war against Libya entering a new phase, the states involved in waging military aggression and regime change on this oil-producing North African country repeatedly congratulated themselves for overthrowing a sovereign government that was both a member of the United Nations and the African Union. The war to topple the Moammar Gadhafi government in Libya represented the first military mission of the U.S. Africa Command or AFRICOM, which was established in 2008 to specifically advance the strategic interests of both Washington and Wall Street.

The U.N. announced its recognition of the National Transitional Council rebel government, even though the war for the control of Libya still rages on. In the cities of Bani Walid, Sirte, Sabha and other areas of the west and central regions of the country, the loyalist forces are formidably resisting the onslaught of imperialism and its agents.

An attack by loyalist forces took place against the NATO-led rebels on the border with neighboring Algeria. There have also been reports of military operations against the NTC rebels in the capital of Tripoli, which the NTC seized a month ago.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe stated in his Sept. 22 address to the General Assembly that the NATO war against Libya and the International Criminal Court’s indictments against the leadership of that country represent the hypocrisy of the West. The Zimbabwe head of state said, “The leaders of the powerful Western states guilty of international crime, like Bush and Blair, are routinely given the blind eye. Such selective justice has eroded the credibility of the ICC on the African continent.” (presstv.ir, Sept. 22)

Zimbabwe has been subjected to economic sanctions and other destabilization efforts by the U.S., Britain and the European Union for over a decade. Its government has been a staunch critic of the imperialist war waged against Libya.

During his General Assembly speech, Mugabe condemned the false pretense under which the U.S. and NATO have waged wars of aggression for the last decade.

Mugabe noted, “Yesterday it was Iraq, and Bush and Blair were the liars and aggressors as they made unfounded allegations of possession of weapons of mass destruction. This time it is the NATO countries, the liars and aggressors as they make similarly unfounded allegations of destruction of civilian lives by Gadhafi.”

## African Union & the war on Libya

During this General Assembly session in New York, the U.S. and other NATO countries were pressuring the African Union to recognize the NTC’s yet-to-be-formed rebel provisional government in Libya. The A.U. has opposed the civil war and the U.S.-NATO military intervention in the North African state.

Since March 11 the A.U. has called for a negotiated settlement to the conflict inside the country and the protection of African migrant workers who have been subjected to murderous attacks by the NTC rebels. Although some A.U. member-states have stated that they recognize the NTC rebels, others have maintained that these rebels should not be given a seat within the continental body of 54 member-states.

Reports by the corporate media stated that the A.U. had recognized the NTC during the course of the General Assembly proceedings. However, Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi said of the results of A.U. closed-door meetings during the General Assembly, “The position is that the NTC is required to set up an inclusive government before they can occupy an AU seat.” (Zimbabwe Herald, Sept. 23)

Mumbengegwi also said, “Some countries [within the A.U. Peace and Security Council] were in favor of the NTC getting a seat, saying the General Assembly had voted to give them a seat, so the AU must follow suit. We, in turn, said there should be an inclusive government to ensure peace and stability in Libya and that the AU does not want chaos. Once we grant them recognition now, the African Union will not have leverage to get them to form an inclusive government.”

According to the Zimbabwe Herald, “Comrade Mumbengegwi said AU chairman, [Equatorial Guinea] President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo’s statement on Libya in his address to the UN General Assembly was read ambiguously. ‘Some are saying the AU recognizes the NTC, but we read it to mean the AU recognizes the NTC as they set up an inclusive government.’”

Nevertheless, recognition or nonrecognition of the NTC by the A.U. and the U.N. will not fundamentally change the situation on the ground within Libya where the rebels have consistently failed to form a viable provisional government. These deliberations will only serve as a distraction from the increasing role of U.S. imperialism and other NATO states in the internal affairs of the African continent.

The Pentagon and the White House have identified North Africa and West Africa as a major theater of military operations designed to secure imperialist interests related to oil, natural gas, and the strategic minerals and waterways in and around the continent. AFRICOM Commander Gen. Carter Ham has identified al-Qaida in the Islamic Magreb, the Somalia-based al-Shabaab and Boko Haram in Nigeria as “significant threats” to the region and the U.S.

Gen. Ham was quoted by the Associated Press as saying, “Those three organizations have very explicitly and publicly voiced an intent to target Westerners and the U.S. specifically. I have questions about their ability to do so; I have no question about their intent to do so, and that to me is very worrying.” (Sept. 14)

With specific reference to Libya, Ham stressed, “There was great support from NATO nations for basing and overflight

and, in many cases, contributions of forces. It was a great international effort, and there is something to be learned from that.”

While identifying organizations that will be under attack by the Pentagon, the White House has approved the wider deployment of Predator and Reaper drones, which will be stationed in Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, an unnamed Arab country, and the Indian Ocean island nation of Seychelles. According to the Sept. 20 Vancouver Sun, “The New American Foundation keeps track of drone attacks. It reckons there were 33 in 2008 when Obama came into office, compared with nearly 120 last year.”

Although these manned drones are purportedly designed to engage in targeted assassinations of those identified as terrorists by the U.S., the strategic interests of Wall Street lie at the heart of this escalation of militarism toward Africa.

As Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said at a National Harbor, Md., conference on Sept. 19, “America gets approximately 18 percent of all of its hydrocarbons imports and the majority of other fuel sources from Africa.” (The Hill, Sept. 22)

Carson went on to stress, “Nigeria, Africa’s largest oil producer, supplies close to 8 percent of all the U.S. imports — a figure that’s equivalent to what we get from Saudi Arabia.” He also pointed out that over the next 10 years Africa is projected to provide 25 percent of the oil and natural gas the U.S. imports annually.

This State Department official proclaimed, “What happens in Africa affects the United States and the entire international community. For all these reasons and more, President Obama has made Africa one of our top foreign policy priorities.”

## Africa & imperialist war

In addition to Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Colombia, Yemen and Bahrain, the U.S. will also escalate its military involve-

ment in Africa. Consequently, the anti-war movement in North America will be forced to seriously challenge the role of imperialism on the continent.

The U.S.-NATO intervention in Libya is designed to subvert the potential of the African Revolution to successfully challenge the ongoing dominance of the imperialist states over the mineral resources and waterways of the continent. Although these acts of militarism are carried out under the guise of human rights and the protection of civilians, these operations in effect create the conditions for gross crimes against humanity and greater economic exploitation and national oppression.

During the recent General Assembly meeting in New York, the U.S. carried out perhaps the highest-profiled state execution in its history. This legal lynching of an African American, Troy Davis, whose innocence was proclaimed by millions across the world, illustrates the blatant disregard for human and civil rights inside the U.S. itself.

As demonstrators in Accra, the capital of Ghana, illustrated on Sept. 21, the 102nd birthday of the late President Kwame Nkrumah, the U.S. has nothing to offer the African continent in the arena of human rights. This demonstration was co-sponsored by the All-African People’s Revolutionary Party, the Convention People’s Party (both founded by Nkrumah) and the Pan-African Improvement Organization. It resulted in the arrest of 25 people who sought to march on the U.S. embassy in opposition to the NATO war against Libya.

In a press release issued by these three organizations after the arrest of their comrades, they quoted Nkrumah: “The essence of neo-colonialism is that the State which is subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside.” □

## MUNDO OBRERO

# Junta de libertad condicional ignora testimonio retractado

*Continúa de página 12*

mente los hechos de su caso y la negación de justicia en su caso, sino que extendamos ese activismo a los/as miles y miles de otros/as que están encarcelados/as y están enfrentando la muerte. Vamos a continuar con la lucha. Todavía estamos tratando de parar esta ejecución aquí en Georgia. No nos damos por vencido”. (20 de sept.)

Cuando le preguntaron sobre la gente que demanda la justicia para Troy, Mathiowetz contestó, “Las millones de personas que están observando este caso no son personas de alto perfil. Es gente que está perdiendo sus empleos, sus casas, enfrentando sus propias situaciones con el sistema de justicia criminal, ya sean los bancos que ilegalmente ejecutan una hipoteca, los patronos que les despiden, etc.

“La cuestión del porqué de esta decisión de la junta cuando ellos previamente habían dicho que ningún/a prisionero/a sería ejecutado/a en Georgia si quedaba alguna duda, y claramente no había no sólo una sombra de duda, sino montañas. En mi opinión, esta es una decisión política, una decisión que no está basada en la ley”.

Esta reciente atrocidad ha destacado nuevamente la injusticia racista que está

tejida en la sociedad estadounidense, especialmente cuando un hombre negro es acusado de matar a un policía blanco. En nueve de cada diez casos, la pena capital está envuelta. El caso del prisionero político con condena de muerte en Pensilvania Mumia Abu-Jamal, es un caso puntual.

La decisión de la junta de Georgia era sobre la protección de la reputación de la policía que forzó a testigos a testificar contra Davis. En otras palabras, si la vida de Davis tiene que ser sacrificada para cubrir la mala conducta de la policía, que así sea. Este punto de vista es la norma, no la excepción.

Mathiowetz dijo a WW/MO: “Si todavía hay alguna persona que tenga dudas sobre la inocencia de Troy Davis, ahora no hay duda sobre la culpa del estado de Georgia de ir hacia adelante con una sentencia de muerte cuando tanta duda ha salido sobre el veredicto original del juicio.

“Para todos los millones de personas que están observando este caso, la decisión de la junta deja claro que este sistema no tiene nada que ofrecer al pueblo — ni justicia, ni empleos, ni cuidado de salud, ni educación, ni imparcialidad”.

Parece que la sangre de otra persona oprimida, la de Troy Davis, goteará de las manos ya sangrientas de Georgia. □



**Mientras millones lamentan y prometen dar fin a la racista pena de muerte**

# Georgia ejecuta a Troy Davis, rechazando la prueba de su inocencia

**Por Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta**

22 de septiembre — Es la mañana después del asesinato premeditado y a sangre fría de Troy Anthony Davis por el estado de Georgia.

El Internet y otras formas de medios de comunicación social, así como periódicos, radio y televisión, están llenas de imágenes de los miles de personas que se reunieron en varias ciudades de los EE.UU., en todo el mundo y frente a los muros de la cárcel de Jackson en Georgia que alberga la cámara de la muerte.

Millones de personas hicieron llamadas telefónicas y enviaron cartas, mensajes en Twitter y mensajes de correo electrónico, unidas en la demanda de que la ejecución de Davis se detuviera. Se hicieron llamamientos a todas y cada una para que intervinieran, desde el director y los guardias de la prisión hasta al presidente Barack Obama. La Corte Suprema detuvo la ejecución por casi cuatro horas, pero luego selló la muerte de Davis sin ningún comentario.

## Los hechos de este caso son bien conocidos

Davis fue juzgado en 1991 por el asesinato dos años antes, del oficial de policía de Savannah, Mark MacPhail quien a la sazón estaba fuera de servicio.

No se pudo producir ninguna evidencia física o forense que vinculara a Davis con el tiroteo. El arma homicida nunca se encontró. No se encontraron huellas dactilares, evidencia de sangre o residuos de pólvora.

El juicio se celebró en Savannah, una ciudad del sur, donde el lugar de un antiguo mercado masivo de esclavos es una

zona turística llena de boutiques y bares, y donde sobresalen marcadamente las diferencias entre las áreas donde vive la gente negra y el área de parques cubiertos de musgo español y mansiones de la élite de la ciudad.

La fiscalía se basó en el testimonio de testigos presenciales. Más tarde, siete de los nueve testigos retractaron o alteraron sus declaraciones, alegando coerción policial, amenazas o intimidación. Sin embargo Davis, un joven negro, fue encontrado culpable de matar al oficial de policía blanco.

Davis siempre mantuvo su inocencia. Lo declaró nuevamente mientras se encontraba atado a una camilla en espera de la letal inyección.

En todos los lugares donde se llevaron a cabo las protestas ayer por la noche, las propias palabras de Davis a sus partidarios/as fueron repetidas y reforzadas.

En estas últimas oportunidades para hablar de su pendiente muerte, mientras mantenía esperanza, dejó claro que ha habido otros Troy Davis en el pasado — gente inocente condenada y ejecutada por un sistema judicial totalmente racista e injusto. Dirigió sus palabras a los otros Troy Davis en corredores de la muerte. Y habló de las más de 2 millones de personas que se encuentran hoy en cárceles y prisiones estadounidenses, muchas igual que él — jóvenes, procedentes de las comunidades de color, trabajadores/as, a menudo pobres.

El mensaje de Davis a todas aquellas personas que firmaron peticiones, escribieron cartas, protestaron y trabajaron sin descanso para salvar su vida, es que deben transferir esa pasión y ese compromiso



para acabar con la pena de muerte en los EE.UU. y luchar siempre por la justicia.

## La historia brutal y racista de Georgia

Georgia tiene una historia larga y sangrienta. Se inicia con la importación y venta de esclavos/as africanos/as y continúa con la brutal eliminación forzada del pueblo Cherokee y otros pueblos indígenas por el Sendero de Lágrimas.

Se extiende desde el Motín Racial de Atlanta en 1906, cuando 10.000 hombres y niños blancos arrasaron el centro de Atlanta en un frenesí asesino, matando y golpeando gente negra y quemando sus negocios, hasta el linchamiento de Leo Frank en 1915 por una turba anti-judía formada por prominentes líderes de Marietta.

Los días de la segregación Jim Crow generaron el asesinato por el Ku Klux Klan de dos parejas negras en Ford Bridge en Moore en el 1946. Fue el uso caprichoso y arbitrario de la pena de muerte en Georgia, como se reveló en el caso Furman en 1972, lo que ocasionó que la Corte Suprema declarara una moratoria sobre la pena capital. Posteriores casos de Georgia ante el máximo tribunal permitieron la reanudación de la pena de muerte y negaron la admisión de los patrones históricos de

discriminación racial como evidencia.

Sin duda, el suelo de arcilla roja de Georgia está manchado con la sangre de muchas víctimas del racismo, la pobreza y la intolerancia.

Estadísticas recientes muestran que Georgia tiene la tercera tasa de pobreza más alta en Estados Unidos. Se encuentra entre los principales estados con ejecuciones hipotecarias. Sus cifras de desempleo son siempre superiores al promedio nacional. En cada índice de bienestar social — desde la salud hasta la calidad de la educación — Georgia está cerca del final de la lista.

La pena de muerte en Georgia se remonta a los primeros días coloniales, cuando la pena capital estaba dirigida a sofocar la resistencia de los/as esclavos/as así como en contra del organizar para lograr la abolición.

La pena de muerte es la herramienta suprema de una clase dominante explotadora empeñada en mantener su autoridad sobre todos/as aquellos/as cuyo trabajo proporciona sus ganancias.

Esta flagrante injusticia después de los 22 años de lucha que llevó Davis para reivindicar su inocencia ante numerosos tribunales, ha desgarrado el velo del debido proceso y la legalidad y reveló la monstruosidad de este sistema judicial basado en la clase y en la raza.

¡En nombre de Troy Davis, la hora de la lucha de masas, la organización y la resistencia es ahora!

PostScript: En la mañana del 22 de septiembre, el estado de Georgia emitió una orden de ejecución para Marcus Roy Johnson, a ser cumplida entre el 5 y el 12 de octubre. □

**Junta de libertad condicional ignora testimonio retractado**

# Mundo indignado por el caso de Troy Davis

**Por Monica Moorehead**

20 de septiembre — La Junta Estatal de Libertad Condicional y Perdón de Georgia negó esta mañana el indulto al recluso condenado a muerte, Troy Davis. Con esta última decisión y todos los demás canales legales aparentemente agotados, Davis enfrenta la inminente ejecución el 21 de septiembre a las 7 PM en la Prisión de Diagnóstico y Clasificación de Georgia.

Las otras tres veces que Davis, un afroamericano de 42 años de edad, ha enfrentado una inyección letal, le fue concedida una suspensión de la ejecución. Hay una campaña de último minuto para presionar al fiscal de distrito Larry Chisholm, quien pidió la pena de muerte para Davis en el juicio original para que retire la sentencia de muerte.

Millones de personas en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo se han indignado por esta horrenda decisión. Esta indignación se ha expresado en cientos de protestas, especialmente el 16 de septiembre, día oficial de solidaridad global con Troy Davis.

Luego, una vez que la Junta permitiera la ejecución de Davis, la gente respondió llamando a demostraciones de emergencia en Nueva York, Baltimore, Atlanta y en otros lugares en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo para el 20 y 21 de septiembre.

Cientos de miles de personas firmaron peticiones organizadas por Amnistía Internacional, el NAACP y el Centro de Acción Internacional (IAC-CAI) que generaron millones de cartas a la Junta, a representantes del Congreso, la Casa Blanca, y al gobernador de Georgia exigiendo la no ejecución de Troy Davis.

## Si uno está encadenado, todos/as estamos

Frente a la oficina de la Junta en el centro de Atlanta, el reverendo Marvin Morgan se encadenó a un asta para protestar por la negación del indulto. Luego declaró que había comenzado una huelga de hambre. Morgan dijo: “Si el estado de Georgia puede matar intencionalmente una persona en un caso que está rodeado de tanta duda, entonces estamos todos enfrentando la misma suerte”. (Los Angeles Times, 20 de septiembre)

De las largas cadenas que lo sujetaban, cerradas con un candado Master, dijo que “representaban el que cuando una persona está en condiciones de esclavitud, estamos todos en condiciones de esclavitud. No estoy loco. Creo que esta acción indica mi cordura más que otra cosa”. Morgan, de 63 años de edad, fue detenido luego por una media docena de policías por entrar a propiedad estatal.

Davis fue acusado de asesinato en primer grado por el disparo a un oficial de policía en 1989, Mark MacPhail en Savannah, Georgia. Fue condenado a muerte en 1991, basado en el testimonio de varios testigos oculares. Años más tarde, al menos siete de esos testigos se retractaron de su testimonio, diciendo que fueron coaccionados por la policía para implicar a Davis.

Una miembro del jurado, Brenda Forest, dijo públicamente que si hubiera tenido toda la información durante el juicio de Davis, nunca lo hubiera declarado culpable.

Edward DuBose, presidente de la Conferencia del Estado de Georgia del NAACP, quien visitó a Davis después de la decisión de la Junta, dijo: “Esto es más

grande que Troy. Refleja verdaderamente la actitud de un país y un estado que todavía ven la vida de los negros como algo carente de sentido. Esa es la única conclusión que se puede sacar de la decisión tomada por la junta de libertad condicional”. (www.eons.com, 20 de sept.)

Como reacción a la decisión sobre el indulto, Laura Moya, una representante en Georgia de Amnistía Internacional, declaró en una rueda de prensa el 20 de septiembre: “Ésta es una afrenta a los derechos humanos. Esto no es solamente un caso aquí en Georgia donde más de 40.000 personas han unido sus voces al firmar nuestras peticiones. Éste es un caso internacional de derechos humanos. Estamos enfrentando un escándalo internacional de derechos humanos mañana”. (MSNBC)

Cuando fue preguntada por un reportero de MSNBC ¿qué seguirá a la negación del indulto?, Dianne Mathiowetz, una líder del IAC-CAI de Atlanta, dijo “Nunca se termina la lucha por la justicia. Troy mismo lo ha dicho muchas veces. Él quiere que a todos/as sus seguidores/as les preocupe no sola-

*Continúa a página 11*